Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN INFLATION INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR EXPORTS

PASS TREASURY, PASS EXIMBANK; VIENNA FOR DIETZ

REF: A. ROME 3318 (NOTAL) B. STATE 05892

1. SOME INFORMAGION ON ITALIAN INFLATION INSURANCE PROGRAM REQUESTED (REF B) WAS ALREADY CONTAINED IN EMBASSY'S REF A. FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTS AND RECAPS THAT INFORMATION AS REQUESTED IN REF B.

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2. PREMIUM SCHEDULE: ARTICLE 1 OF ITALIAN INTERMINIS-

TERIAL DECREE OF JULY 3, 1967 SPECIFIED MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PREMIUM LIMITS (STILL IN EFFECT) FOR EXPORT PROGRAMS AT 0.10 PERCENT AND 1.25 PERCENT PER ANNUM.

- 3. PERCENTAGE RISK COVERAGE: ARTICLE 7 OF JULY 3, 1967 DECREEE SPECIFIED LIMITS OF COVERAGE. COST CHANGES FROM 5 PERCENT TO 15 PERCENT ARE INSURABLE, WHEREAS COST INCREASES UP TO 5 PERCENT ARE TO BE COVERED BY EXPORTER ITSELF.
- 4. QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS. (A) LEAD TIME: EMBASSY NOT CLEAR AS TO MEANING OF THIS REQUIREMENT. (B) MINIMUM AMOUNT OF CONTRACT: MIMIMUM AMOUNT OF CONTRACT IS 300 MILLION LIRE (\$476 THOUSAND AT CURRENT 630 LIRA PER DOLLAR EXCHNAGE RATE), (C) COMMODITY COVERAGE: NO RESTRICTIONS. (D) GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE: ALL OTHER EC MEMBERS EXCLUDED. (E) MIMIMUM CONTRACT PERIOD: SIX MONTHS.
- 4. COST OF PROGRAM IN 1973 AND 1974: EMBASSY ASSUMES COST OF PROGRAM MEANS AMOUNT OF CLAIMS PAYMENTS.
 ACCORDING TO INA, ONLY MODEST AMOUNT IN PAYMENTS FOR CLAIMS UNDER PROGRAM HAS BEEN PAID AS OF THIS DATE (LESS THAN 50 MILLION LIRE, OR APPROXIMATELY \$79,000 AT CURRENT LIRA/DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE). HOWEVER, INA OFFICIALS EXPECT THAT "SUBSTANTIAL" AMOUNTS OF INDEMNIFICATION WILL BE PAID TO EXPORTERS UNDER PROGRAM DURING NEXT FEW YEARS.
- 6. AMOUNT AND PROPORTION OF EXPORTS WHICH BENEFITED FROM INFLATION INSURANCE PROGRAM IN 1973 AND 1974: INA
 OFFICIALS DID NOT MAKE AVAILABLE DETAILED FIGURES FOR 1973
 AND 1974. IN AUGUST 1974 INA COMPLETELY SUSPENDED OPERATION OF INFLATION INSURANCE PROGRAM. INA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN 1974 APPROXIMATELY 6 TO 7 PERCENT OF
 GLOBAL ITALIAN EXPORTS WERE COVERED BY INA INSURANCE AND THAT OF THAT AMOUNT ONLY A "SMALL" PERCENTAGE WAS COVERED WITH INFLATION RISK INSURANCE. INA OFFICIAL SAID USE OF
 THIS INFLATION PROGRAM WAS EXTENSIVE IN RECENT YEARS
 PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ITALIAN EAST EUROPEAN TRADE,
 SINCE VARIABLE PRICE CONTRACTS WERE MOST DIFFICULT TO
 NEGOTIATE IN THESE TRADING COUNTRIES. THE EC EXCLUSION,
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OF COURSE, SHARPLY REDUCED THE AVAILABILITY OF THE COVERAGE TO ITALIAN EXPORTERS.

7. FORECASTED OPERATIONS FOR 1975. INA COMPLETELY SUS-PENDED ITS INFLATION INSURANCE PROGRAM IN AUGUST 1974 AND DOES NOT INTEND TO RESTORE AVAILABILITY OF COVERAGE IN "IMMEDIATE FUTURE." 8. POSSIBLE DISCUSSION IN BERNE UNION: IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY QUESTION, INA OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT FRENCH, BRITISH, AND ITALIANS INTEND TO DELIVER A PRO MEMORIA TO THE US AT THE JUNE BERNE UNION MEETING COVERING THEIR RESPECTIVE INFLATION INSURANCE PROGRAMS. THE INA OFFICIAL WAS HOPEFUL A SINGLE PRO MEMORIA WOULD BE PRESENTED BUT SAID IT WAS EQUALLY LIKELY THAT THREE SEPARATE PRO MEMORIAS WOULD IN FACT BE DELIVERED. BEAUDRY

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